IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

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THE MOURNING DOVE IN IOWA: A WASTED RESOURCE

NEGLIGENCE TOPS BOATING FATALITIES

Operator negligence is apparently the primary contribution to fatal boating accidents, according to a recent study of 452 mishaps involving small pleasure boats by the Outboard Boating Club of America.

The study, representing the first published data on fatal accidents involving small pleasure boats, was made on the basis of newspaper accounts between the period May 1, 1956, and December 31, 1956. Additional information was gleaned from various state records for the same period and from January 1, 1956, through April 30, 1956. During the period of the report, 614 boaters lost their lives as a result of the 452 mishaps.

Under the heading of "Causes" the report states in part:

"It is apparent that a majority of the fatalities occurring each year are caused in the main by simple failure to observe standard

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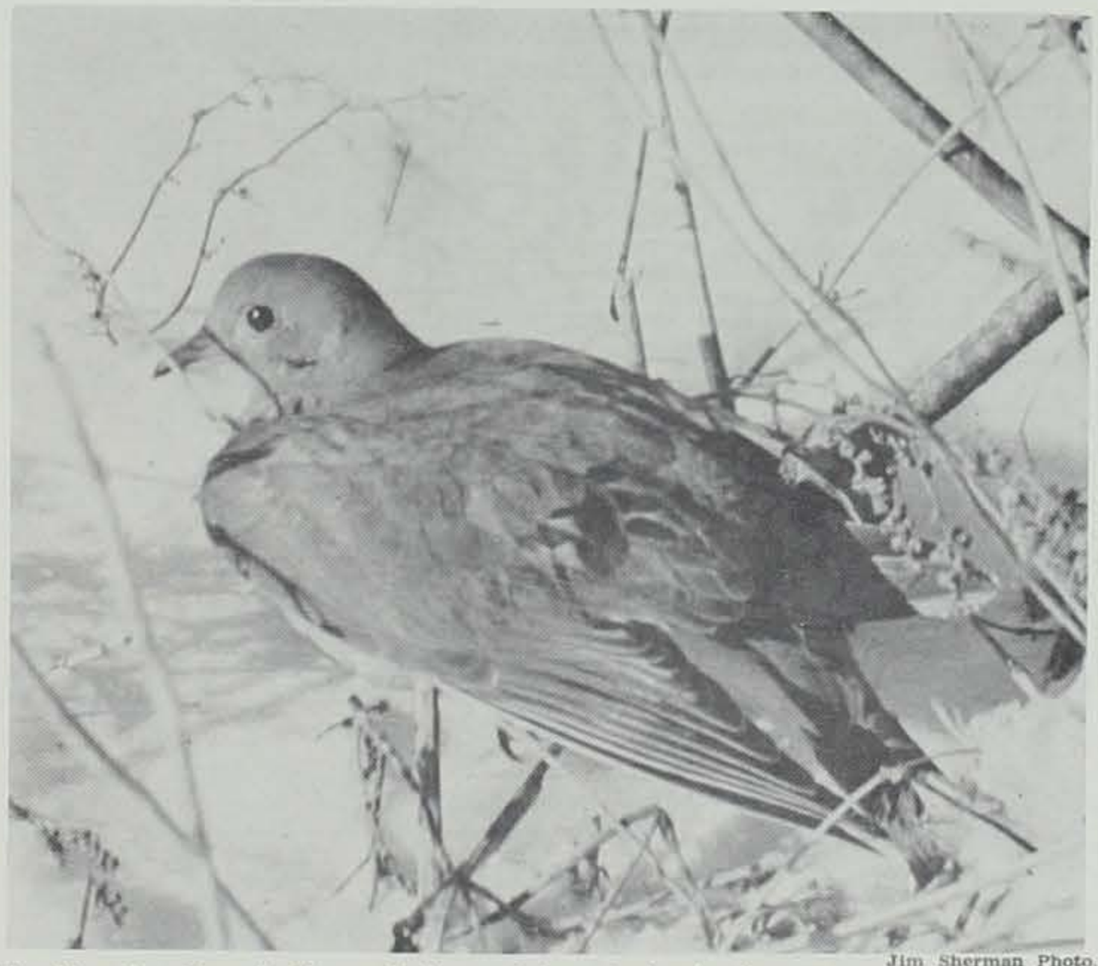

Jim Sherman Photo.

The Mourning Dove is the nation's most important migratory game bird, say U. S. Fish and Wildlife officials. Although more doves are killed each year than all waterfowl combined, no material change has been made in dove population in the last 30 years, studies by the federal agency show. Iowa sportsmen are not permitted to hunt doves, but help pay for studies of the game bird in some 30 states that do hunt them.

By Ray Beckman
Chief, Division of Fish and Game

Mourning Doves have been regarded as game birds from the earliest history of this nation. Early settlers recognized them as being close relatives of Old World pigeons. The writers of those times speak of the bird familiarly, especially as a game bird that relieved the hardships of pioneer life. Iowa law recognized the Mourning Dove as a game bird. Section 109.41 lists: *"The Columbidae:* Mourning Doves and wild rock doves only" as game birds.

The present legal status of the Mourning Dove identifies it as a migratory bird protected by both state and federal law. An open season is provided for by federal law.

A Game Species

In Iowa Code the dove is not carried on the list of birds for which a season is provided, although the bird is carried on the list of birds and animals defined and recognized as game species. Legislation is necessary to give the State Conservation Commission authority to open a season. Until such time as the Iowa Legislature grants this authority, no Iowa dove season is possible.

Responsibility for the protection, regulation and management of the Mourning Dove is jointly shared by state and federal government. The maximum limitations on bag and possession limits and length of open season are set annually by a federal agency, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The state can further restrict these, but cannot exceed them. Thus, the federal government acts as a restraining influence on any state which might tend to become over-liberal in its regulations. The sincerity of the people administering migratory bird regulations cannot be questioned. Such names as Ding Darling, Dr. Ira Gabrielson, Clarence Cottam and Al Day are synonymous with the finest in national conservation effort.

The abundance of the Mourning Dove in Iowa is a matter of common knowledge. It is one of our commonest birds.

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1958-59 FISHING REGULATIONS SET

Regulations for the 1958-59 Iowa fishing season have been set by the Iowa Conservation Commission with a few changes from those of last year.

Opening dates will vary from those of a year ago in keeping with the Commission's policy of Saturday openings. Regulations establishing new seasons on five species north and south of U. S. Highway 30 also will be in force during the 1958-59 season. These are the most important of the new regulations.

During 1958-59, catfish anglers may take 16 daily, an increase of eight over the 1957 daily catch limit. The possession limit of 16 remains unchanged with a continuous open season on this species.

North of Highway 30, the 1958 season on largemouth and smallmouth black bass will open May 24 for inland waters of the state, and extend through November 30, 1958. South of Highway 30, a continuous open season will be in effect. The daily bag and possession limits for each species remains at five and 10, respectively.

North of Highway 30, walleye and sauger pike seasons for inland waters will be from May 10 through February 15, 1959. South of Highway 30, fishing for these species will be permitted from April 12 through February 15, 1959. A daily catch limit of five and possession limit of 10, each species, remains in effect.

The daily bag and possession limits of walleye and sauger pike in boundary waters is eight and 16. There is a continuous open season on these species in boundary waters which includes the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and inland waters of Lee County. All other regulations for boundary waters are unchanged from those of last year.

Changes regarding daily catch and possession limits of bullheads

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IN THIS ISSUE

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SHARON BLUFFS STATE PARK

C. S. Gwynne
Professor of Geology
Iowa State College

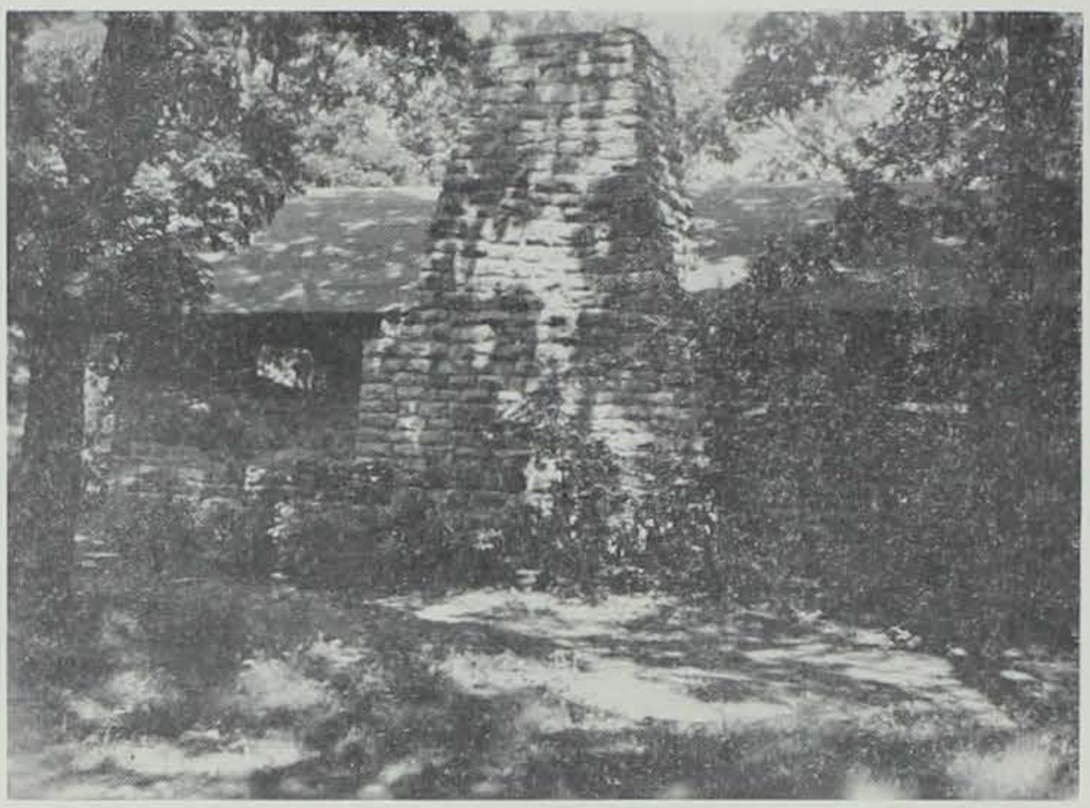
Sharon Bluffs State Park is not so large as state parks go, only 50 acres or so, but it has many features of geological interest. First, of course, are the bluffs for which the park is named. Then there are the ridges and ravines, the rocks scattered along the foot of the bluff, and those used in the construction of the park shelter.

The park is a few miles east of Centerville in Appanoose County. The stream flowing along the eastern edge of the park is the Chariton River. In time of flood some of the flow of the river goes down a ditch which at the park is a half-mile or so east of the channel.

It is interesting to note that the Chariton flows almost directly south to the Missouri, a distance of about 100 miles. Only a few miles east of the park area the drainage is to the Des Moines River and thence to the Mississippi.

Let us start with the bluff. This is largely the result of erosion by the river which has flowed along its base. In the course of the ages the channel of this stream has shifted slowly but constantly. Recently, at the park, it has been flowing along right at the side of the valley, and following a fairly straight course. Slowly it has undermined the slope, and the bluff has developed. As more material has fallen, or has been brought in by tributary streams, it has been carried away by the river. The larger rocks have accumulated in the stream bed in the vicinity of the park.

The face of the bluff presents a fine exposure of the subsoil of the region. Most of the material is glacial till, the jumbled mass of clay, silt, sand, pebbles, and boulders deposited directly from glacial ice. The unweathered till is grey in color. Much of this can be seen near the base of the bluff. Weathering of the grey till changes it to brown. There is much of this weathered brown still exposed above the gray in the upper part of the bluff.



Shelter house at Sharon Bluff State Park shows the majestic chimney fashioned from rock found in the area.

There is also a great deal of brown sand, probably deposited by water from the melting glacial ice. In one place near the base of the bluff there is a deposit of dark blue-gray clayey silt. This appears much like loess, the wind-blown material of so much of the surface of southern Iowa. The surface loess, however, is brown. This deposit is rather impervious to water, causing water to seep out on top of the layer. Thus the surface of the exposure is wet. Also, there are layers of rusty gravel, high in the bluff, and deposited by meltwater. Some of this has been cemented to conglomerate, and pieces lie about at the base of the bluff. The cementing substance is the mineral limonite, similar to iron rust. It has been deposited from subsurface water.

River Deposits

Note the stratified material in the side of the channel across the river from the park. This is sand, silt, and clay deposited by the river. All of the level bottom land, the flood plain, is underlain by similar material.

The rocks lying about in the river bed are of many sizes and shapes. Most are out of the glacial deposits. Some have fallen from the bluff itself, others have come from farther upstream. They are of many kinds, but most are so stained that their nature is not apparent. It is necessary to break them to see what they are like. If this were done it would be apparent that only a few are from the country rock of Appanoose and surrounding counties. This country rock is sandstone, shale, limestone and coal. The rocks of the stream beds are foreign to this part of the country. Carried in by glacial ice, they are called glacial erratics.

The large boulder near the base of the bluff below the shelter attracted the writer's attention. The rock is a limestone conglomerate. It can be seen to be made up of pieces of gray limestone firmly cemented together. Limestone of this sort occurs as part of the bedrock in eastern Iowa, and so may have come only a short distance.

Permanent Dike

Another large rock out in the stream channel shows a prominent dike projecting as a ridge from its surface. The dike was formed when the boulder was part of the bedrock of the country far to the north, and far below the surface. Molten rock flowed into a crack and solidified. Uplife of the crust and erosion over millions of years found the rock of which this boulder was a part right at the surface. Frost action and other weathering forces freed it, and the glacier brought it to this area. The dike projects from the surface because it is more resistant to weathering and erosion.

The shelter house is made almost entirely of limestone, although there are a few glacial erratics, conspicuous because they differ strikingly from the limestone. The limestone contains an abundance of the imprints of the shells of animals which lived in the sea in which the material accumulated as a soft sediment. This limestone came from a quarry somewhere in this section of the country. Formed as it was in the sea it reminds us that seas covered this part of the continent at least once in the remote past.

There are two glacial erratics in the wall at the fireplace, one to the left and the other to the right. The one to the right shows what weathering does even to resistant rocks like granite. The rock is rough and broken, and pieces have crumbled away.

Many short ravines, the work of running water, cut through the park to the river. Some of the trails are on the ridges between neighboring ravines, or between a ravine and the bluff.

The observant visitor will also note that the ground slopes gently westward from the picnic area. The edge of the bluff is the high part of the park. This seems peculiar, but is understood when it is realized that this slope is toward a neighboring valley. A similar slope, toward the Chariton River, was once present where the bluff now is.

The bedrock lying below the soil and subsoil in the park area is not visible. The river has not yet cut down to its level. With time and the down-cutting of the stream it will begin to show up. The record of more ancient happenings in this part of Iowa will be disclosed, though by that time the bluff will have long since ceased to exist.

THIS "MALLARD" A NON-SWIMMER

Last month, Howard Ferguson, a farmer living near Connelsville, Pennsylvania, notified Game Protector Alex Ziros of a strange incident.

Said Ferguson, "One evening as I relaxed near one of my ponds I watched a mallard hen at the edge of the water with what appeared to be a brood of nine ducklings. She coaxed eight of them to jump into the pond with her. The ninth little bird remained on the bank for some time, but finally the hen lured it into the water. It splashed around, then sank."

"Suspecting something was amiss I retrieved the sunken bird and found it to be a pheasant chick. Examination of the mallard's nest showed all the duck eggs empty, but there were two unhatched pheasant eggs among the shells." —*Minnesota Conservation Volunteer.*

DOG PACK DRIVES BUCK TO DEATH

Near Centerville recently a 300-pound buck deer finally leaped from a bluff while trying to elude a pack of dogs that had chased it for more than 18 hours.

Roy Downing, state conservation officer in the area, arrived on the scene in time to prevent the dogs from tearing the deer to pieces. Downing shot the deer which had broken its back in the leap. Downing later turned the carcass over to the Appanoose County Farm.

Robert Christoferson of near Sedan heard the dogs pursuing the deer through the day. He called Downing who investigated.

TURKEY'S DIET

The wild turkey's diet is mostly vegetable in origin, though some insects, including grasshoppers, are eaten.

Badger fur, while thick and handsome in color, is rather coarse and is not valued very highly.

Conservation Commission nurserymen are now preparing to take tree and shrub orders for spring planting. Hardwoods, conifers and special wildlife packets are offered. Tree and shrub plantings are excellent examples of good conservation any way you look at it—they keep moisture and soil on the land, add beauty to any surroundings and provide excellent attraction and protection for wildlife.

* * * * * *

NURSERY SET TO TAKE TREE ORDERS

The Iowa Conservation Commission's Nursery at Ames is now preparing to fill orders for trees and shrubs for farm planting this spring.

Hardwoods, conifers and a special wildlife packet are available. Hardwoods include Black Walnut, Dogwood, Ninebark, Silver Maple, Sycamore, Wild Grape, Wild Plum, Multiflora Rose, and others. Austrian, Red and White Pine are offered in the conifer classification. The special wildlife packet includes 25 conifers, 25 Dogwood, 25 Caragana, 25 Multiflora Rose, 25 Wild Grape, 25 Ninebark, 20 Honeysuckle, and five Bittersweet.

Most hardwoods are priced at $4 per 250 trees or $12.50 per 1,000. Conifers are priced at $6 per 250 trees, or $22 per 1,000. The wildlife packet includes 175 plants for $3.75.

Instructions giving details on planting will be furnished with each order including illustrative suggestions for odd area and farm pond plantings. No less than 250 plants of any one species will be supplied, and each order must total at least 500 plants.

County ASC Committees, County Extension Directors, Conservation Officers, and SCS personnel will supply information concerning tree orders and submit order forms to the Conservation Commission office in Des Moines. Orders will then be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Orders will be accepted until March 15, if the supply lasts.

The female goshawk is much stronger than the fast-flying male.

CROWS

Young crows have been known to eat an amount of food equal to their own weight in a single day.

Hunting, Fishing Big Business

"DEAD" BUCK STEALS RIFLE

Some mighty strange things happen to the angler and hunter. While some may cause a raised eyebrow here and there, many could happen. Take the recent experience of a Missouri deer hunter.

The hunter reported at a deer checking station to inquire about his missing 30-30 rifle.

The hunter said he had shot a 10-point buck with the 30-30 and thought the buck was dead when it fell. Beside himself with excitement, the hunter had propped the buck's head upright and hung the rifle on the antlers by the trigger guard. He then backed off with his camera to record his "kill."

At this point, the dazed buck jumped to its feet and bounded off through the brush with the hunter's beautiful rack—and his rifle!

SAN JUAN RABBITS

A number of states now prohibit the importation of the so-called San Juan rabbit, or European rabbit. This rabbit is a serious agricultural pest, particularly because of its burrowing habits.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

The mountain goat is perhaps the only horned mammal that regularly sits in its haunches.

SQUIRRELS

Red squirrel populations fluctuate markedly with peaks numbers at five to six year intervals.

TURTLES

Turtles have no teeth, but their jawbones are often very sharp and their jaw muscles extremely powerful.

SWIM EARLY

Young mallard ducks can swim a third of a mile as soon as they leave the nest.

The nation's anglers and hunters now outnumber golfers nine to one—and 15 per cent of the "sportsmen" are women, says a recent story by the United Press.

That's the consensus of state fish and game departments in a poll taken by the American Express Company's travel and research department, says UP.

While nearly four million golfers will crowd some 5,000 courses, an estimated 32 million sportsmen will fish from the Catskills to the Sierra Nevadas, follow the flyways of migrating ducks and stalk deer from Maine to Washington.

Of 20 million fishermen in the United States more than four and a half million are women. And even though hunting is considered a man's sports realm, nearly half a million of the 12 million nimrods are feminine, says the report.

By the end of 1957, fishermen and hunters spent three billion dollars on lodging, food, equipment, boat rentals and guides.

The survey showed 15 to 25 per cent of the total expenditures was for food and lodging.

Sport fishing was big business for manufacturers of rods, spinning reels, monofilament line and lures. Tackle companies were due to reel in more than $243,626,000 and hunting suppliers another $350,958,000, according to a nationwide study by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

UP points out that license fees for 1957 were expected to total 85 million dollars—38 million for fishing and nearly 47 million for hunting. A non-resident hunting and fishing license runs as high as $100 in some big game areas, the survey showed.

Michigan studies reveal that about 86,000 one-inch fish can inhabit an acre of lake, while only slightly more than 200 fish 10 inches long can live in an equivalent area.

CONSERVATION WILL BECOME A REALITY WHEN...

. . . People who do have good hunting and fishing opportunities begin to take interest in the problems of those who don't;

. . . Publishers and advertisers reverse the present policy of playing up ways to take more wildlife, and playing down ways to save more;

. . . Plundering the resources becomes a crime at least equivalent to the crime of plundering people who plunder the resources;

. . . Conservationists spend as much time talking conservation to everyone as they do to each other;

. . . Government policy becomes directed to the basic interests of the people instead of the economic interests of the policy-makers;

. . . Sportsmen realize that the goal of management is not volume of game and fish they want, but the quantity the habitat will support;

. . . We understand that the magnate whose factory wastes poison a river, or the landowner who destroys the soil, may have taken far more from the world than he was worth to it.

. . . We realize that what the exploiter takes with him out of this world is not the wealth he accumulated, but the lives and welfare of present and future generations.

. . . We learn that democracy and freedom can not exist without it.

—The Wildlife Crusader

Mourning Dove . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Migration begins about mid-July in Iowa. This early migration is of young birds. Migration becomes intense during the last two weeks of August and early September. At this time a very noticeable build-up in population occurs. Migrants from Canada, Minnesota and the Dakotas have moved into the state. Birds numbering in the thousands can be seen in a short drive on country roads.

The doves that form Iowa's summer nesting population are hunted when they cross our borders into Missouri or Illinois and throughout the remainder of the southern migration. Every state south of Iowa to the Gulf of Mexico has an open dove season. In 1956, 29 states provided for an open season on doves.

Remains High

Iowa's dove population remains abundant despite the hunting pressure exerted on it during migration. It is believed the additional pressure of an Iowa open season would affect the population very little. Doves would reach Missouri considerably wilder and the Missouri kill as well as other southern states would in all probability be reduced.

Iowa's hunters are, after all, United States citizens and, as such, they should be entitled to equal rights and privileges with the citizens of other states in the taking of this abundant migratory game bird.

Hunters through the purchase of hunting licenses contribute generously to the bill for the protection of all birds. Through payment of excise taxes on their ammunition, arms and equipment, they are financing the restoration of habitat for game and song birds. The sincere conservation efforts of American sportsmen must be recognized. They have not given mere voice support to a program of protecting and maintaining American wildlife, but have provided the hard cash and effort necessary to do the job. These sportsmen have a strong claim to the right to hunt and derive recreation from a species when its population level is such that it can safely withstand an open season.

More Incentive

A closed season does not insure an abundant supply of birds. The Iowa quail story is ample evidence of this fact. Quail decreased steadily in Iowa despite a 17-year closed season. Habitat restoration work by the Iowa Conservation Commission and interested sportsmen brought about the comeback of the Bob White Quail. An open season gave sportsmen additional incentive to restore quail cover and maintain a seed stock. Today, Iowa has a healthy quail population through the natural quail range. It can also be pointed out that the Prairie Chicken is virtually extinct in Iowa despite many years of continuous protection.

Jim Sherman Photo.

Clyde Updegraff, supervisor of the Iowa Conservation Commission's game farm near Boone, bands a Mourning Dove. Iowa, although it offers no season on this game bird, it cooperating in studies which disclose important information about the Dove's migration and nesting habits and mortality.

Our dove population is dependent on food and habitat, not in Iowa alone, but throughout its migration route and wintering grounds. Hunting regulations are necessary on its entire migration route to protect it. An open or closed season in Iowa is actually a small factor in the total dove management picture.

Some distinct recreational advantages would accrue to Iowans if an open season were made possible.

. . . The logical season dates are September 1 to 30. This comes at a time when all other game bird seasons are closed. This would extend and round out the fall hunting season for Iowa sportsmen.

. . . A dove season would benefit all of Iowa. Many of our present seasons such as quail and waterfowl benefit only limited areas because of natural range or habitat limitations.

. . . The dove is a sporty bird, small and fast-flying. It is nationally recognized as being one of the most difficult shotgun targets and a true test of a gunner's skill. Harold S. Peters of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, writes in the publication, "Mourning Dove Banding in the North Central States": "The Mourning Dove is the most important of all migratory game birds, being harvested in greater numbers than all species of waterfowl combined. It has been estimated that the 1955 hunter kill approached 19 million Mourning Doves. Since four to five shotgun shells are fired to bag the average dove, approximately 11 million dollars were spent for ammunition by dove hunters that year. It appears probable that over 15 million dollars worth of shotgun shells are fired annually at doves. This is big business indeed!"

Some people object to the shooting of doves on a purely sentimental basis. They point out the cruelty of shooting such a lovable bird, "the bird of peace". In rebuttal we would like to point out all wild things must die. Few birds die of old age. The vast majority of wild birds die violent deaths in the jaws or talons of predators, by slow starvation, by freezing, by drowning, by sickness and disease. Few of the natural deaths of birds are as quick and clean as death by gun.

Not Incompatible

Millions of hunters are also lovers of wildlife and the two are not incompatible. The esthetic value of birds is very real and their wild beauty appeals to nearly all men. The instinct to hunt is also very real and as old as all mankind. Hunting provides modern man with one of his finest recreations.

Some question the value of the dove as a game bird because of its size. It is true the dove is small in size. There is but one answer to this argument. It has been a long time since hunters hunted for meat alone. All of us would be far better advised to spend the money at the butcher shop if we derived no recreation from the sport.

It is the considered opinion of experts that hunter kill is a minor factor in dove mortality. There is nothing which would indicate that an open season would have the effect of reducing the population level in this flyway. It appears that Iowa hunters are being denied a share of a sport to which they have every right. To allow them the privilege of sharing in this sport would detract nothing from the rights of their non-hunting fellow citizen.

Dove Studies

During recent years the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been making a cooperative dove study in 10 southeastern states. These states have spent approximately $300,000 as a direct cost of gathering the best management data available and many thousands of dollars indirectly in assisting in this study. More recently Iowa and other states in the Mississippi Flyway have cooperated in a national dove banding program which continues at this time.

One major objective of this cooperative study was "to study dove movements, breeding reactions, population densities and distribution, and hunting effects. To recommend proper management and hunting regulations based on the resulting data."

Based on the cooperative study and substantiated by the work undertaken in Louisiana, the following facts are set forth:

. . . The hunter is responsible for less than 10 per cent of the annual mortality.

. . . Eighty per cent of the doves do not live one year.

. . . There is an unknown annual mortality of more than 60 per

cent, a part of which could be harvested by the hunter.

..The fall population is dependent upon the success of the breeding season.

..That far more birds are present after the hunting season ends than are needed to replace any reasonable fall population.

..The heaviest mortality is during the late summer and early fall.

..The hunter kills only a very small number of breeding adults during September seasons.

..That more than 90 per cent of the bag during the September season are birds of the year.

..That there is no differential in the shooting of age classes.

..That the dove population is made up of distinct segments.

..These segments are consistent in their movements regardless of food supply, weather, hunting pressure or other factors.

...That few sportsmen travel far to hunt doves.

...That the average daily bag is only about five birds.

...There has been no material change in the overall populations during the last 30 years.

...There has been a wide dispersion of doves due to changing agricultural practices.

...That the production rate, nest mortality and other factors that influence populations have not changed materially.

...That factors adversely affecting the production and population of doves are infrequent and short in duration.

...That temporary fluctuation in the dove population is stabilized following one year of normal production.

...That late hunting has a more detrimental effect on the dove than September shooting.

When analyzing the above facts it is evident that the resource is not being adequately utilized. In other words, the unsound and unnecessary restrictions placed on the dove hunter do not permit him to harvest a sufficient number of doves to keep a large part of the population from dying of natural causes, which benefits no one. There was no evidence based on a half million dollar study that the present restrictions are saving doves, nor are there any data to support such stringent restrictions if more birds need to be carried over to the breeding season.

Conservation means *wise use. Wise use* of our renewable resources means a reasonable harvest of those resources which produce an annual surplus that would otherwise go to waste. It can only be hoped that the facts involved are given careful consideration in the future. If this is done, Iowans will be hunting doves for the first time in many years and carrying their share of responsibility in management, censusing, and research on the species.

Wardens Tales

Herb Eells, Conservation Officer Supervisor for east and northeast Iowa, paused at the editor's desk recently to report a novel method two deer hunters called upon to establish certain identity of a deer they had killed.

It was during the recent season in Winneshiek County. Two hunters had felled a deer, rough-dressed the animal, and hung it in a tree while they went to their car to bring it closer and get their deer tags.

While they were gone, another party came upon the deer, removed it from the tree and carried it from the area. When the duo that had killed the deer returned for their animal, they found it missing and promptly began a search for a hunting party they had seen in the area. These fellows, they reasoned, were the ones that had taken their deer.

After a little searching, the suspected hunting party was found. In the party's possession was a deer bearing their tag and identical in appearance to the one killed by the first party.

A local sheriff was called to establish positive identity of the animal. The usual wrangle followed, with each party claiming ownership of the deer.

There is one way to positively identify the animal, suggested a member of the party that had shot the deer. Several years ago at a sportsmen's meeting, a local conservation officer had explained to the group that it's a good idea to mark a deer in some manner to identify it, the nimrod explained.

If you will examine the deer, you will find a 1956 penny in the hole made by my slug, the hunter told the sheriff.

The sheriff looked and found the penny. It was sufficient to establish that the deer was the rightful property of the party which shot and marked the animal.

Confronted with this evidence, the second hunting party admitted they had taken the deer and placed their tag on it!

Several years ago, a couple of conservation officers were called up to northeast Iowa for some special duty.

It was springtime in that area revered as "Little Switzerland" and the roads were soft and tacky from springtime thaws. Traveling a backroad in the area, the officer's car became stuck and mired down to the point where they had to have help getting it pulled out.

After considerable walking, the officers came upon a farmhouse. They were greeted there by an obliging farmer who listened sympathetically to the tale of their plight. He was sorry, but he didn't have a tractor, he told the officers.

Almost before he got the words out of his mouth, a sound caught the attention of the officers:

"Put-put-put" came the sound from a nearby ridge. "Put-put-put-put" the officers heard it again.

"Well, somebody around here has got a tractor. That sounds like a John Deere over the hill," one of the officers reasoned.

At this disclosure, the farmer threw back his head and roared with laughter.

"John Deere! Them's timber pheasants! H'aint you guys ever heard timber pheasants before?"

The officers looked at one another for an instant. Then they smiled as they simultaneously got the full significance of the situation.

What they had heard was a ruffed grouse on his "booming" ground, thumping a hollow log with rapidly beating wings to summon nearby females to the area.

What the farmer didn't realize was the fact that the officers were on special assignment from outside counties and couldn't possibly know much about this game bird. The farmer simply thought it was good fun to find a couple of conservation officers — of all people — who didn't know what a drumming "timber pheasant" sounded like!

BRUIN DIET

In the wild, the black bear probably eats relatively little fresh meat. Food consists of fruits, berries, rodents, carcasses, nuts, fish and insects. Even small cubs eat buds, leaves and grass.

Pennsylvania's laws provide for confiscation of vehicles used in committing game and fish law violations. The cars are then sold at public auction.

This Blue Heron got himself in quite a tangle before it died of suffocation or starvation. A minnow on the end of the maze of fishline probably started the trouble, says Biologist Tom Moen.

"All Choked Up" Over Fishing . . .

If you are not already acquainted with the premise that fishing is capable of shaking any angler to his very boot soles, we submit the recent case of a Great Blue Heron who got so "wrapped up" in the activity, it either choked or starved to death!

Mrs. Pearl Fronk, wife of Fish Culturist Fay Fronk of the Conservation Commission's fish hatchery at Spirit Lake, recently found the partly decomposed Heron and delivered it to Tom Moen, fisheries biologist at the Spirit Lake station.

Moen says that it is hard to understand how the Heron made such a successful job of hanging itself. Moen found no hook or line going into the Heron's mouth, but he thinks that a minnow on a hook might well have begun the chain reaction. Moen also believes there is a possibility that at some time during the entanglement, the line shut off the Heron's supply of air, causing death by choking or starvation.

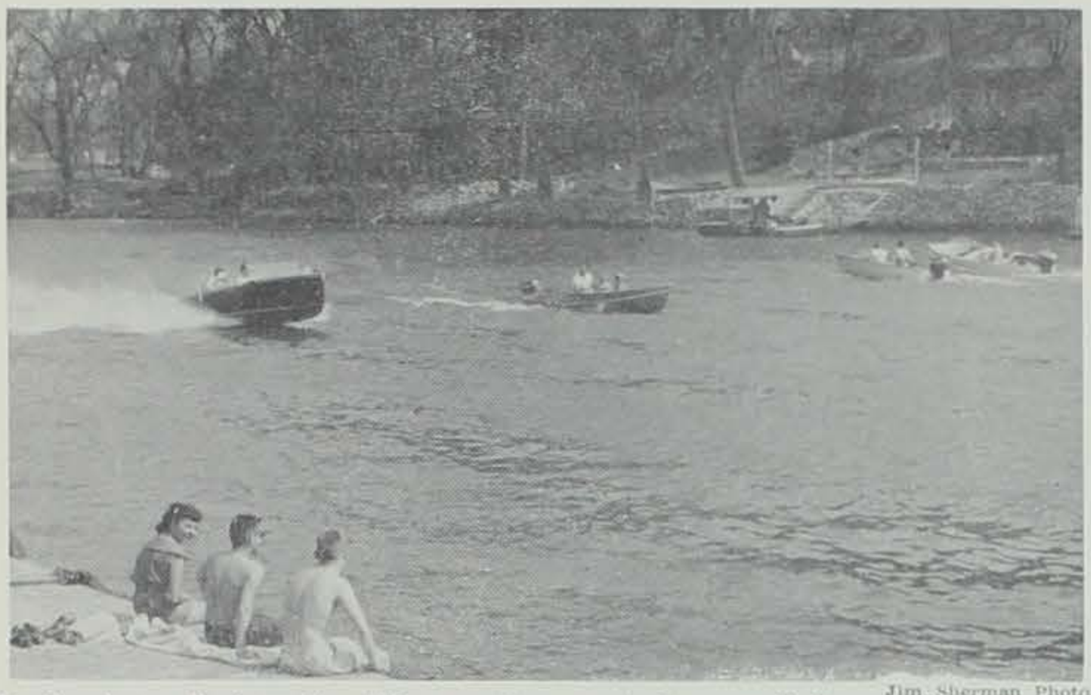
Whatever took place, it certainly gives one a "line" on the extreme one Heron went to have fish for dinner!

MALLARD FREED AT CEDAR RAPIDS

Detective Captain John Kuba and Detective Charles Shepard freed an icebound mallard from the Cedar River recently, but the venture cost Kuba a cut leg and watch repair bill.

Kuba and Shepard, armed with grappling hooks and hatchets, chopped the mallard out, took it to police headquarters, revived and freed it.

During the rescue operation, Kuba slipped on the ice, cut his leg and damaged his watch.



Jim Sherman Photo.

Boating is excellent sport and its growth seems to have no limit, as this photograph made on the Des Moines River indicates. With increased interest goes additional responsibilty for the safe conduct on the part of the boat operator. Ths person, a recent study shows, is accountable for most boat mishaps.

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Negligence . . .

(Continued from page 1)

rules of common sense handling of either a boat or boat passengers."

Operator negligence is blamed for 35.51 percent of the fatalities. Capsized or overturned craft was the second most prevalent factor in boating mishaps, comprising 30.72 per cent of the cases. Other causes in terms of their contribution to boating fatalities were: unknown causes, 10.02 per cent; swamped craft, 9.15 per cent; collision, 8.07 per cent; miscellaneous, including "freak" accidents, 3.9 per cent; fire and explosions, 1.52 per cent; and faulty or mismatched equipment, 1.09 per cent.

Michigan lead the nation with 10.72 per cent of the boating fatalities. This figure is a logical one since Michigan also was among the nation's leaders in the percentage of boats in use with 7.49 per cent. Iowa had 1.04 per cent of the fatalities and 1.71 per cent of the nation's boats.

Six states—Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Wyoming—recorded no fatalities during the period of the study. All of the states, however, had little boating activity. Colorado had .32 per cent of the boats in use during the period of the report; Montana, .38 per cent; Nebraska, .51 per cent; New Mexico, .15 per cent; North Dakota, .40 per cent and Wyoming, .08 per cent.

One portion of the study clearly shows the increased interest of Americans in boating. In 1949, 2,643,000 boats were in use. In 1955, the number of boats in use was nearly double with 4,210,000. The 1956 total has been estimated by OBCA at 6,154,000 of which 77 per cent or 4,470,000 are especially designed for, or capable of using, outboard motors.

A cheery note is that in the six-year span, 1949-1955, fatalities have decreased nearly every year—even with the terrific increase in boat ownership and use. In 1949, 1,243 fatalities were recorded while in 1955, fatalities in small boats stood at 1,186.

Outboards, including outboard powered rowboats and canoes, were involved in 60.9 per cent of the fatal accidents with rowboats and skiffs comprising 24.3 per cent; inboards, 9.8 per cent; canoes, 3.6 per cent and sailboats, 1.4 per cent.

Boating size appears to have some bearing on the number of boating fatalities, particularly by per capita comparison. While 59.3 per cent of the boats in the 14-15 foot class were sold and were involved in 33.6 per cent of the mishaps, boats under 12 feet accounted for 10.1 per cent of the mishaps while capturing only 1.0 per cent of the market. The same is true at the other end of the size scale—boats of 18 feet and over comprised just 2.7 per cent of the boats sold during the report period, yet were involved in 20.5 per cent of the boating blunders.

Fishing with 68.7 per cent heads the list of activity in which victims were engaged at the time of mishaps. Cruising was next with 8.9 per cent; hunting, 6.5 per cent; water, skiing and racing, both 1.6 per cent; commercial, 1.2 per cent; and other activities, 11.4 per cent. —*K.C.S.*

For their size, beetles are the strongest of all creatures.

Jim Sherman Photo.

A canoe trip is hard to beat for water recreation, provided safety is paramount in the minds of occupants. Study the water course carefully, proceed with caution, and don't take unnecessary chances is good advice. Heeding it will keep boaters out of mishap statistical columns compiled by groups interested in safer boating.

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TABLE I

CAUSES OF FATAL BOATING ACCIDENTS IN 1956

Collision with another boat, rocks, reef or submerged object			8.07%
Collision with another boat	4.58%		
Rocks, reef	.22%		
Submerged object	3.27%		
Swamped by wave, wake or another boat, own wash while in reverse, windstorm, rain squall, etc			9.15%
Fire or explosion			1.52%
Faulty or mis-matched equipment			1.09%
Operator negligence			35.51%
Overloading	3.27%	Fell overboard and drowned	13.51%
Standing	4.79%	Fell from and run over by boat	1.52%
Unbalanced load	.87%	Thrown from boat	5.67%
Reckless operation	.87%	Too sharp turn	5.01%
Capsized or overturned (Includes boats found overturned after the fact and accidents with too brief or generalized description of cause for classification elsewhere)			30.72%
Miscellaneous, including "freak" accidents			3.92%
Cause unknown or not stated			10.02%
			100.00%

TABLE II

FATALITIES AND NUMBER OF OUTBOARD MOTORS IN USE 1949-55

Year	Fatalities	Motors in Use
1949	1,243	2,643,000
1950	1,215	2,811,000
1951	1,241	3,010,000
1952	1,132	3,219,000
1953	1,266	3,419,000
1954	1,135	3,740,000
1955	1,186	4,210,000

TABLE III

SIZES OF BOATS INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS

Length	% of Cases	% of outboard boats sold 1956
Under 12 feet	10.1%	1.0%
12-13 feet	21.9%	23.7%
14-15 feet	33.6%	59.3%
16-17 feet	13.9%	13.2%
18 feet and over	20.5%	2.7%

Iowa Biologist's Aide and Canadian Duck Banding Program

Carter, Iowa Conservation Commission biologist's aide (left), and a member of the Alberta Game Branch record duck band numbers during the summer waterfowl banding program. This photo was made near Brooks, Alberta.

The summer banding crew is shown sexing, banding and releasing some 1,800 trapped ducks during a phase of the program. This drive netted over 1,100 mallards and numerous Bluewing and Greenwing Teal, Pintails, Gadwalls and lesser species.

Dennis Carter, Iowa Conservation Commission biologist's aide, was in Canadian provinces last summer assisting the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's duck banding program. His participation and that of others involved in the several phases of the project in shown in this series of photographs. The work of U. S. and Canadian biologists has been of utmost importance in assuring maintenance of our waterfowl resource.

A U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service game agent and his Black Lab "Rollie" add one more duck to the bag for banding. Use of dogs in banding ducks has proved highly successful and some 30 well-trained retrievers were used in last summer's program.

Carter (left) and a co-worker are shown banding a young pintail during a phase of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's banding program in Canadian Provinces last summer.

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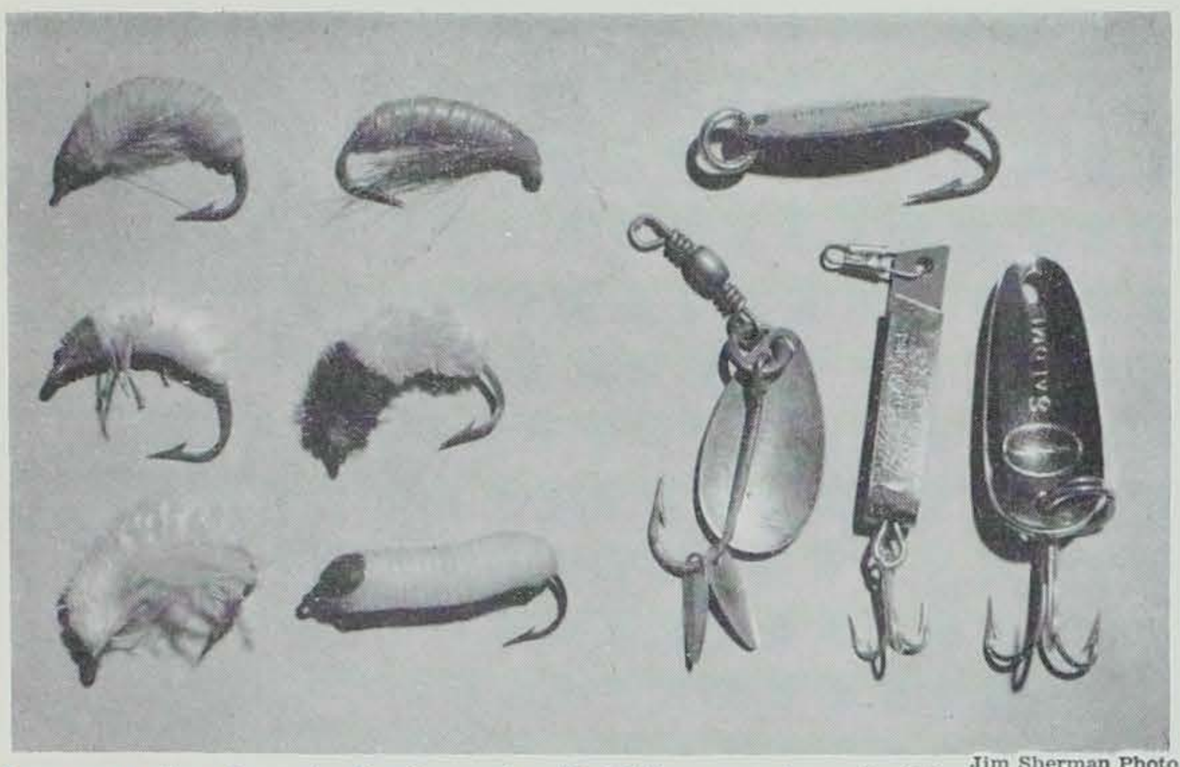

Jim Sherman Photo.

Some examples of popular ice-flies and artificial lures are shown in this photograph. Not so important as the lure itself, is the action the angler imparts to it. For success of any artificial, remember it is the rod-tip which must give animation to an otherwise lifeless fly or lure.

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ARTIFICIALS FOR ICE FISHING

Artificial lures are a credit to man's imaginative processes, for in them the angler has created a fishing aid that imitates the natural food of fish without the bothersome aspects of getting and keeping it. Worked at the right place in the right manner, artificials can be as productive or more productive than natural baits.

To face up to a fact or two concerning artificials—some of the commercially made ones are things of beauty, designed to catch more fishermen than fish! Some of the others—products of the "Do-It-Yourself" fan—are pretty crude imitations of the real McCoy. Apparently it doesn't matter much, for the angler who knows how to use them takes his share of fish. Perhaps this lends credence to what has been said time and time again: the lure is not as important as the way in which it is presented and worked.

Extension of Iowa's fishing season in recent years has opened up an entirely new fishing opportunity for the state's anglers. We refer, of course, to the sport of ice fishing! In this sport, as in fair-weather fishing, the artificial has been introduced and has made a marked contribution!

A summary of the most popular wintertime artificials is relatively simple, since they fall into two or three categories—the ice-flies, rubber or plastic imitations, and metal lures, including spoons and spinners.

Few who have spent any time at the sport of ice fishing—particularly in the artificial lakes and farm ponds—will doubt the ability of the corn borer, wasp and other larvae, and grasshoppers to produce fish. Their record and ability to take panfish species is well established. By the same token, the rubber or plastic made artificials of these nature-created morsels are effective for these same species. Likewise for the ice-flies and shiny metal artificials in both natural and artificially-created waters of the state.

The degree of success with artificials appears to rest mainly with the angler himself. If he recognizes right from the start that his success hinges on his ability to give the lure animation, he'll score, whether it be January or August. Move the rod tip, "jiggle" the lure, let it sink, pause, and repeat the process! It may take a little time to get the "hang" of it, but once the action that produces strikes is found, the angler should stay with it. It's smart angling to experiment a little too! Trying different things and changing mannerisms of the rod tip often produce just the enticing action that brings strikes!

"Jigging" with metal lures of "jigs" has become an established winter fishing method for walleyes in northwest Iowa in recent years. Equipment required is a short, stubby rod and the shiny metal lures resembling a tie-clasp (others are lead-head lures with a bit of colored bucktail for extra appeal) that are snapped to 6 to 8-pound monofilament line. Rigged in this manner, let the lure down to the bottom and raise it about a foot. This accomplished, raise the rod tip sharply about three or four inches. Lower it to the original position and wait about five seconds before you repeat the process. As you move the lure in this manner, it will literally do a "jig" making diagonal sweeps and fluttering like a falling leaf. The action will often attract walleyes away from even the best natural bait. Watch for strikes right after the lure action has stopped. Walleyes, like so many game species, want a moving lure, but if they can get their dinner without working too hard for it—so much the better!

If you are like a good many Iowans, you'll be doing some ice fishing before the balmy spring breezes blow. When you do, take along a few artificials and give them a try. Make the acquaintance of winter anglers in the locality in which you plan to fish and get their ideas on fishing prospects. They can give you some mighty valuable information about ice and what areas are safest, where fish are being caught and how to fish for them!

NEWBORN BATS

Bats carry their newborn with them for a few days after birth. The young bat clings to its mother's fur as she flies about in search of food.

SUN PROTECTION

The orange coloring in a prairie dog's eyes permits that animal to withstand the intense glare of the sun.

RODENT'S TEETH

The teeth of rodents never stop growing, but they are kept worn down by gnawing.

Fishing Regulations . . .

(Continued from page 1)

for inland waters will be in effect during the 1958-59 season. A daily catch limit of 15 and possession limit of 30 will be in force south of Highway 30. No daily catch or possession limit applies to this species north of Highway 30. A statewide continuous open season on bullheads will remain in effect during the 1958-59 season.

The 1958-59 regulations:

INLAND WATERS OF THE STATE (Including Big Sioux River)

Kind of Fish	Open Season	Daily Catch Limit	Possession Limit	Minimum Length or Weight
Carp, Buffalo, Quillback, Gar, Dogfish, Gizzard Shad	Continuous	None	None	None
Sheepshead, Sucker, Redhorse, Chub, Sunfish, Bluegill	Continuous	None	None	None
Bullheads	Continuous	15 South of Hwy. 30. None North of Hwy. 30.	30 South of Hwy. 30. None North of Hwy. 30.	None
Rock Sturgeon, Paddlefish	Continuous	15 each species	30 each species	5 lb.
Sand Sturgeon	Continuous	15	30	1 lb.
Crappie, Yellow Bass, Silver Bass, Warmouth Bass, Rock Bass, Perch	Continuous	15 each species	30 each species	None
Trout (all species)	Continuous	8	8	None
Minnows	Continuous	None	None	None
Frogs (except Bullfrogs)	May 10-Nov. 30	4 doz.	8 doz.	None
Bullfrogs (Rana catesbeiana)	May 10-Nov. 30	1 doz.	1 doz.	None
Catfish	Continuous	16	16	None
Largemouth Bass	May 24-Nov. 30 North of Hwy 30 Continuous South of Hwy. 30	5	10	None
Smallmouth Bass	May 24-Nov. 30 North of Hwy 30 Continuous South of Hwy. 30	5	10	None
Walleye-Sauger	May 10-Feb. 15 North of Hwy 30. Apr. 12-Feb. 15 South of Hwy. 30	5 each species	10 each species	None
Northern Pike	May 10-Feb. 15	3	6	None

BOUNDARY WATERS
Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and inland waters of Lee County
Same as inland waters
Same as inland waters
Continuous open season with no catch or possession limit.
Same as inland waters
Same as inland waters
Same as inland waters
Same as inland waters
Same as inland waters
Same as inland waters
Same as inland waters
Same as inland waters except continuous open season.
Same as inland waters except continuous open season.
Daily bag limit 8, possession limit 16. Continuous open season.
Same as inland waters except continuous open season.

Where waters are located within the confines of state, city, municipal parks, etc., fishing will be permitted only when such areas are open to the public.

EXCEPTIONS: In Little Spirit Lake, Dickinson County; Iowa and Tuttle (Okamanpedan) Lakes, Emmet County;; Burt (Swag) Lake, Kossuth County; and Iowa Lake, Osceola County, the following exceptions apply: WALLEYE PIKE, daily catch limit 6, possession limit 6; NORTHERN PIKE OR PICKEREL, daily catch limit 3, possession limit 3; CATFISH, daily catch limit 8, possession limit 8; LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS, daily catch limit 5, possession limit 5; open season May 24 to November 30.